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INL and SIS Agree to Develop SIMION Ion Optics Software

The U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Scientific Instrument Services Inc. (SIS) of Ringoes, N.J., have joined in a new license agreement to develop and maintain the software code for the SIMION suite of ion optics modeling software. The agreement will allow SIS to enhance, update and maintain the software to satisfy the needs of the user community.

SIMION 3D, developed by a retired INL employee David Dahl, is an award-winning Windows PC-based program, widely used by manufacturers and designers of mass spectrometers, electron microscopes, electron multipliers and other scientific instruments to study the optics of charged particles through electric and magnetic fields in two and three dimensions. SIMION is designed to provide direct and highly interactive methods, balancing ease-of-use, speed, accuracy and affordability in order to simulate a variety of real-world ion optics problems.

SIMION is so pervasive, and so influential, that in 1998, the American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS) recognized that "the application of SIMION has been invaluable to the design of mass spectrometers (the kinds of machines that SIMION simulates) for the last decade." Dahl has also received three R&D 100 Awards related to instrument research and development.

SIS has distributed SIMION since 1996 and has more recently developed accessory tools to expand the capabilities of SIMION to include the importation of CAD files directly into SIMION, a new compiler and other tools requested by customers. These new features along with an updated user interface are planned for inclusion in the next major release of SIMION.

Established in 1978, Scientific Instrument Services specializes in supplies and services for mass spectrometers and related scientific and medical equipment. The company distributes its products via a catalog and through its Web site (www.sisweb.com). SIS also designs and manufactures filaments, probes and other instrument accessories for OEMs in the scientific and medical market. With more than 30 employees, SIS's staff includes sales, technicians, machinists, engineers, programmers and product development/support specialists.

SIS has established a SIMION Web site (www.simion.com) to provide customers with information and support on SIMION. The SIMION community is encouraged to send comments and suggestions on the future direction of the SIMION software to SIS.

The INL is a science-based, national laboratory dedicated to supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's missions in energy, science and national security. The INL is operated for the DOE by Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC.

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